

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A serial data interface system comprising:
 - a tone pattern generator configured to generate a tone pattern signal;
 - a selecting system configured to selectively pass the tone pattern signal or a data input signal;
 - a serializing device configured to serialize either the tone pattern signal or the data input signal;
 - a clock device configured to drive the tone pattern generator and the serializing device; and
 - a driver configured to differentially transmit the serialized tone pattern signal or the serialized data input signal.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the tone pattern signal comprises a continuous sequence of HIGH and LOW signals at a predetermined rate, such that the tone pattern signal represents a signal between approximately 49MHz and approximately 62MHz.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the tone pattern generator comprises:
 - a flip-flop.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the data input signal comprises a data signal and a driver control signal.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the tone pattern signal comprises a tone pattern portion and a driver control portion.

6. The system of claim 1, further comprising one of a Beta port or a Bilingual port, wherein the tone pattern generator, the selecting device, the serializing device, the clock device, and the driver are positioned in the Beta port or the Bilingual port.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the serializing device also outputs a driver control signal.

8. The Beta signal port of claim 7, wherein the driver control signal places the driver in active or inactive state.

9. The Beta signal port of claim 1, wherein the selecting system comprises a multiplexer.

10. The Beta signal port of claim 1, wherein the selecting system comprises a digital multiplexer.

11. The Beta signal port of claim 1, wherein the clock device comprises a clock divider device that converts a high speed input clock signal to a low speed output clock signal.

12. A system for determining data speed and connectivity between first and second Beta signal systems in serial data interface devices, comprising:

- means for generating a tone pattern signal;
- means for selecting the tone pattern signal or a data input signal;
- means for serializing the tone pattern signal or the data input signal;
- means for clocking the means for selecting and the means for serializing; and
- means for transmitting one of the serialized tone pattern signal or the serialized data input signal to the second Beta signal system.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the means for generating a tone pattern signal comprises a flip-flop.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the means for selecting comprises a multiplexer.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein the means for selecting comprises a digital multiplexer.

16. The system of claim 12, wherein the means for transmitting comprises a driver.

17. The system of claim 12, wherein the means for transmitting is placed into a first or second state based on the serialized signal.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the first state is a high impedance state and the second state is an active state.